

NSC BRIEFING

21 October 1954

SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Diem's position growing extremely weak as crisis prolonged; his government may collapse at any time.
 - A. Ely has revived Tam's candidacy for premiership.
 - B. French acting high commissioner who has been strongly pro-Diem says premier's prestige reduced to zero; suggests Diem's brother, Luyen, as suitable successor.
 - C. Heath sees these views as indicating extent of deterioration in Diem's position.
- II. Raphael-Leygues, Mendes-France's advisor on Indochina, sees only hope as government of sects led by Prince Buu Hoi.
 - A. Leygues plan would involve ouster

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- B. He claims this plan is alternative to currently dominant theme in French thinking: i.e. drop Diem and work toward rapprochement with Viet Minh.
- C. However, Buu Hoi is longtime fellow traveller and Leygues plan may come to same thing.

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